

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

### LAND CLEARING

(acre)  
CODE 460

#### DEFINITION

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas.

#### PURPOSE

To achieve needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of soil and water conservation and in keeping with the capabilities of the land.

#### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a soil and water conservation plan, and the land to be cleared will be used according to its capabilities.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

The plan shall specify the kinds of timber to be salvaged, lengths of logs, and place of stacking. Method of disposal shall be specified for all material not be salvaged. Clearing and disposal methods shall be according to applicable state laws and with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

The cleared area shall be left in a neat and sightly condition that will facilitate the planned use and treatment of the land.

The plan shall provide for the measures necessary to protect the cleared area from erosion.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where

applicable. Consideration of such things as strip clearing, windrowing debris, and maintaining den and food trees shall be explored.

#### Water Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, and transpiration.
2. The impacts of soil settling on the variation in rates of runoff immediately after clearing.

#### Water Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.

#### PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

***An operation and maintenance plan must be prepared for use by the owner or others responsible for operating the system. The plan should provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining the system to insure that it functions properly. It should also provide for periodic inspections and prompt repair or replacement of damaged components.***